The Philippine Department of Tourism
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on the DOT

Frasco secures CA nod as Tourism Chief

PASAY CITY, Philippines - The Commission on Appointments (CA) has confirmed the *ad interim* appointment of Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco last September 27, following the endorsement made by the CA Committee on Tourism and Economic Development.

"At this time when our country's tourism is trying to get back up from the devastating effects of the pandemic, we need someone at the helm of the Department of Tourism who can steer it with a clear vision and roadmap, not only to attract tourists to pre-pandemic levels, but to exceed the same. Secretary Frasco fits the bill quite well. She has proven herself to be well-equipped in terms of experience, qualification, and distinction," *remarked* CA Committee on Tourism and Economic Development Chairperson Rep. Jose Gay G. Padiernos (Party List - GP PARTY), who moved for the CA's confirmation of Secretary Frasco's appointment, and was seconded by CA Vice Chairperson Rep. Ramon Guico Jr. (5th Dist. Pangasinan).

CA Members Senators Christopher "Bong" T. Go and Loren Legarda, as well as Representatives Lani Mercado-Revilla (2nd Dist., Cavite), Albert S. Garcia (2nd Dist., Bataan), Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte Jr. (2nd Dist., Camarines Sur), and Manuel T. Sagarbarria (2nd Dist., Negros Oriental) also manifested their support to the plenary confirmation of Secretary Frasco's appointment.

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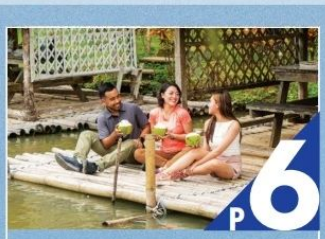
Sec. Frasco: High turnout for 1st Philippine tourism job fair



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Sec. Frasco: High turnout for 1st Philippine tourism job fair

Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco announced the successful staging of the inaugural "Trabaho, Turismo, Asenso: Philippine Tourism Job Fair" capped by high turnout of job seekers and participating tourism industry employers last September 22 to 24.

In collaboration with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the three legs of the DOT-DOLE joint employment program aggregated 157 tourism-related companies that attracted 9, 059 job hunters. Based on the partial submission of participating employers, as of 25 September, a total of 407 job seekers were hired on the spot with the big bulk coming from Cebu with 332, followed by the National Capital Region (NCR) and Davao with 45 and 30, respectively.

"In recognition of the fact that the tourism industry plays a key role in creating economic opportunities, we launched the very first ever Philippine tourism job fair across the Philippines entitled "Trabaho, Turismo, Asenso!" in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment that offers no less than 8,000 jobs to the tourism sector," Secretary Frasco remarked during the Philippine Economic Briefing in New York as part of the official Philippine delegation during the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The opening salvo of the Trabaho, Turismo, Asenso: Philippine Tourism Job Fair generated exactly 8,310 job openings in the tourism and allied industries.

As reported by participating employers to the DOLE, there are 8, 376 near hired applicants or those who initially qualified but needs further assessment including skills test, demo, background checking, validation of pre-employment requirements, and final interview. There are no limit as to the number of times a job applicant can file his or her application.

Secretary Frasco also underscored the Administration's support in the industry's resurgence saying "we are very optimistic that with the President's identification of tourism as a priority agenda, and with all of these objectives and strategies that we have laid out, that the tourism industry is well on its way to recovery".

The next series of the tourism job fair is eyed for the first and second quarters of 2023. The multi-month employment program will culminate in May 2023 in celebration of the 50th founding anniversary of the Department. **DOT**

DOT Regional Directors convene for Q3 alignment

The Tourism, Regulation, Coordination, and Resource Generation sector of the Department of Tourism (DOT) organized the 3rd Quarter Regional Directors' Alignment Meeting in Cebu on September 16.

The Regional Directors' meeting is a regular quarterly activity to track the implementation of ongoing programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) of the Regional offices and is an avenue to discuss strategies to align future PAPs with the Department's vision and thrusts.

In her message, Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco commended the efforts of the Regional Directors underscoring the pivotal role of the regional offices in ensuring the success of the endeavors of the Department.

"I've made it very clear to our team in the central office that the way we will move forward in doing things is that it must always be consultative, collaborative, and most importantly, inclusive. You will be very instrumental in this aggressive group of programs that we wish to implement in the DOT, and you will be the key to its success. I need your help. I need your continued dedication to the Department," Secretary Frasco tells the regional directors present.

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Frasco secures CA nod as Tourism Chief

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In the deliberations of the CA Committee on Tourism and Economic Development, Rep. Villafuerte, who was a former Governor of Camarines Sur, commended President Marcos, Jr. for his appointment of local government unit (LGU) officials such as Secretary Frasco, who prior to being hand-picked by the President to lead the DOT, won a fresh mandate for her third and final term as Mayor of Liloan, Cebu.

"Now that you are in the helm of a national government [position], you are in the position to attend to the needs of the LGUs, and they can be a strong partner in strongly pushing tourism. We fully support you. We are very happy that you are there," said the lawmaker.

Seconding Rep. Villafuerte, Senate President Juan Miguel "Migz" F. Zubiri backed Secretary Frasco's appointment, noting the tourism chief's strong performance "I feel that you will do a great job. It is commendable that we hear the tourism chief's proposal without reading them. It's very obvious that the good Secretary knows her wares. She is very knowledgeable on the topics," he added.

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Frasco secures CA nod as Tourism Chief

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"It's nice and refreshing to see that the President chose somebody from the local government," enthused the Senate President.

Other members of the CA Committee on Tourism and Economic Development including Senators Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Grace Poe, Francis N. Tolentino, and ex officio members Minority Floor Leader Sen. Allan Peter S. Cayetano, Assistant Minority Floor Leader Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel (2nd Dist., Surigao del Sur), also signified their support to the appointment of Tourism Secretary Frasco during the deliberations, with some also airing their suggestions and recommendations to the DOT's undertakings.

Expressing her gratitude foremost to President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., and to the members of the CA, and the CA Committee on Tourism and Economic Development, Secretary Frasco referred to the confirmation of her appointment as a timely blessing that presented itself on the same day of the commemoration of the annual World Tourism Day.

"It is both an honor and a privilege to be bestowed the responsibility of steering a sector as pivotal as the tourism industry that is a source, not only of pride, but more importantly, of livelihood of millions of Filipinos across the country," enthused Secretary Frasco, who gave an overview of the initiatives that the DOT has accomplished in the roughly three months that she became its Secretary.

"As I have already manifested early in my appointment, I intend to be a Listening Secretary throughout my term. Under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., the Department of Tourism shall be consultative, collaborative, and inclusive in its efforts to attain the overarching vision of President Marcos, Jr. for tourism to become one of the major pillars for economic growth in the Philippines, and to lift up the industry to a certain level that will allow its benefits and development to encompass all parts of the country," assured the Tourism Secretary.

Prior to her appointment as DOT chief, Secretary Frasco was a multi-awarded Mayor of Liloan, Cebu, and the spokesperson of Vice President Sara Z. Duterte during the 2022 National Elections. A lawyer by profession, she practiced international arbitration and commercial litigation, and taught law in reputable law schools before entering public service in 2016.

Committing to bring her local government perspective, and a collaborative and multi-dimensional approach to the short, medium, and long term development of the country's tourism industry, Secretary Frasco appealed for the partnership and cooperation of all tourism stakeholders in the next six years.

"I will continue to reach out to all our tourism stakeholders in the public and private sectors, whom we consider our invaluable partners, to take part in this shared tourism governance with the DOT so as to ensure that our policies and programs are aimed towards rebuilding and transforming Philippine tourism into a more sustainable, practical, and resilient industry in the face of the pandemic and other disasters," she said. **DOT**

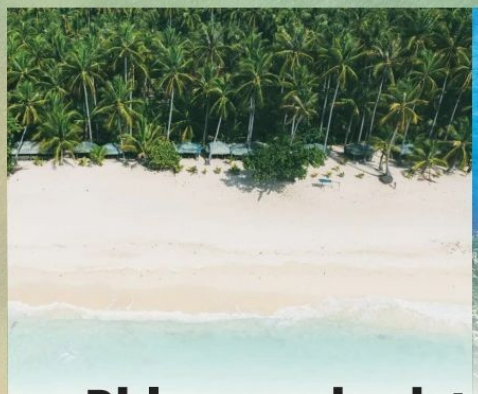
DOT hails lifting of outdoor mask mandate in the Philippines

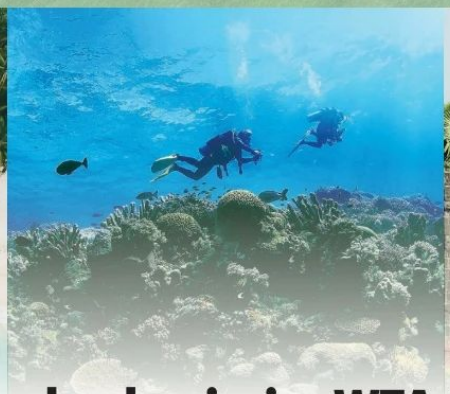
The Department of Tourism (DOT) hails the decision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. to liberalize the country's mask mandate to allow the voluntary wearing of face masks outdoors.

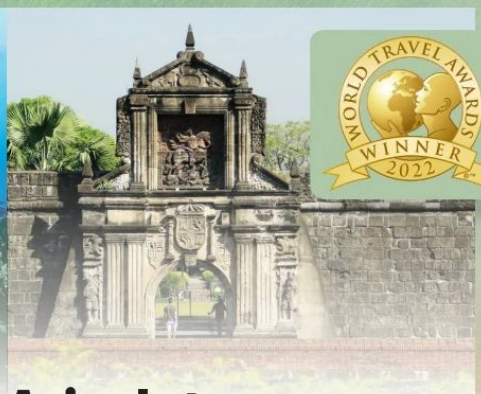
The President's Executive Order is a welcome development especially as empirical data shows that in other economies in Asia, Europe, and North America where stringent health protocols were lifted, this resulted in more favorable economic conditions, increase in tourist arrivals, and a faster recovery of their respective tourism portfolios.

The DOT is optimistic that the lifting of the mask mandate will allow the Philippines to gradually catch up in the race to recovery of tourism in the ASEAN region as this is seen to build more confidence in travel, spur economic activity, and enhance people-to-people connectivity into and around the country.

With the President's EO and hopefully, the eventual recalibration of all remaining restrictions, the country will be able to strike the necessary balance between protecting lives and promoting livelihood. Our prospects for recovery are much brighter with the Philippines' signal to the world that we are open, we are ready, and we are moving forward. ***DOT***







Phl scores back to back win in WTA Asia; Intramuros hailed as Asia's Leading Tourist Attraction of 2022

Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco expressed her elation as The Philippines is recognized as Asia's Leading Dive Destination and Asia's Leading Beach Destination, while Intramuros reclaimed its title as Asia's Leading Tourist Attraction at the 29th World Travel Awards (WTA) 2022 held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on September 7.

"The Philippines is a beautiful country and you (WTA) having given these awards is such an affirmation to all of our tourism stakeholders and workers who have greatly sacrificed throughout the pandemic. We look to the future with hope that through our combined efforts under the Marcos Administration that has identified tourism to become a major pillar for economic recovery that not only will we survive the pandemic but we will thrive, we will endure and we will get back stronger than ever," said Secretary Frasco in a video message sent to the WTA organizers.

WTA awarded The Philippines for the sixth time as the Leading Beach Destination in Asia besting India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, and at the same time, achieving the Asia's Leading Dive Destination title for four straight years since 2019, edging Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Secretary Frasco noted that the dive citation from WTA only cements the premise of the DOT in hosting of the Philippine International Dive Expo (PHIDEX) 2022, which is considered as the country's largest platform to network and promote the dive industry. The Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving (PCSSD), an attached agency of the DOT in-charge of marine sports, has recently appropriated a budget of Php9.53 million for the first time by the national government for a more intensified dive tourism promotion and development.

WTA likewise hailed Intramuros Manila as this year's Asia's Leading Tourist Attraction, winning over other competitors such as the Angkor Temples of Cambodia; Borobudur Temple Compounds of Indonesia; Ha Long Bay of Vietnam; Sengan-en and Shoko Shuseikan Museum of Kagoshima in Japan; Taj Mahal of India, teamLab SuperNature of Macao, Great Wall, The Forbidden City, and Terracotta Warriors, all in China; Tokyo Imperial Palace of Japan; and Victoria Peak of Hong Kong.

"We are ready to receive you in the Philippines. We look forward to your visit and I invite each and every one of you to visit our beaches, our dive sites and our tourist destinations," Secretary Frasco added.

Secretary Frasco emphasized the significance of the WTA accolades, saying that "may this recognition remind us that all of us have a shared responsibility towards the success of the tourism industry, not only in our country, but in Asia and the world. We remain committed to purveying the Filipino brand of hospitality and to heralding the Filipino brand to the world".

Established in 1993, the London-based WTA acknowledges excellence in the travel and tourism industry in three tiers: country, regional, and world awards across different categories and is dubbed as the "Oscars" of the travel industry. **DOT**

PBBM underscores tourism's importance during Singapore OFWs visit

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. joins the Filipino community in Singapore last September 6, where he was met with resounding applause and cheers of support.

Joining him were First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, House Speaker Martin Romualdez and Cabinet Secretaries including Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco in his first state visit to Singapore.

Addressing Filipinos at the Ho Bee Auditorium at the National University of Singapore, President Marcos introduced Tourism Secretary Frasco as the head of "one of the most important agencies of the Philippine Government".

The President likewise noted the distinct "Filipino smile" as an inherent part of the Philippines' brand that makes us unique from the rest of the world.

It can be recalled that the President has conveyed his vision of transforming the tourism industry into becoming a pillar of the Philippine economy.

The President earlier stressed the "invaluable role" the tourism sector plays in the promotion of the "Filipino brand" underscoring the necessity to welcome the rest of the world with an enhanced own brand that is "unique, attractive, and creative."

The DOT chief is part of the Official Philippine Delegation headed by President Marcos, and will be among the resource persons for Philippine Economic Briefing slated tomorrow and organized by the Department of Finance. ***DOT***

on the DOT: Staff

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Frasco, expresses optimism with tourism's recovery at Singapore Philippine Economic Briefing

Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco on September 7 served as one of the panelists at the Philippine Economic Briefing (PEB) held in Singapore, where she expressed her optimism for the Philippine tourism industry's ability to make a full recovery and to exceed its pre-pandemic performance under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

The Tourism Chief joined her fellow Cabinet officials: Secretary Ivan John Uy of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Secretary Jaime Bautista of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Secretary Manuel Bonoan of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Secretary Alfredo Pascual of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in the second panel discussion which focuses on Infrastructure and Industry.

The Tourism Secretary expressed her gratitude to President Marcos Jr., especially with his reiteration of tourism as one of his administration's priorities, saying in his opening message at the briefing that *"We will [also] reinvigorate the tourism sector through massive investments and travel infrastructure and the promotion of the Filipino brand around the world."*

"The President himself expressed great optimism in the tourism industry becoming one of the major economic pillars for post-pandemic recovery, and therefore, there is a lot of optimism and hope that reverberates across all of our tourism stakeholders in the Philippines," Secretary Frasco said, as she presented an overview of the DOT's main objectives towards realizing President Marcos Jr.'s vision for the country's tourism industry, as well as the specific plans and convergence programs under the Department's three key strategies Connectivity, Convenience, and E(Quality).

"Overall, the outlook about the Philippines is optimistic. Notwithstanding all of the difficulties that we have faced and that have come into our shores, and everything that has come to pass, and everything that the Filipino people suffered in terms of various upheavals and calamities, it is by no accident that the country remains one of the most beautiful destinations in the world, and top-of-mind destination in terms of tourism," Secretary Frasco added, citing the recent accolades that the Philippines and its tourism destinations received from reputable award-giving tourism bodies and publications such as Condé Nast Traveler, Travel and Leisure (T+L), TIME Magazine, and the World Travel Awards (WTA) as examples.

In the closing part of the panel, Secretary Frasco called on international tourism stakeholders to visit and invest in the Philippines, as she gave the DOT's commitment to improve the overall tourism landscape in the country.

As of September 5, the Philippines received at least 1.4 million international visitors.

"The tourism industry in the Philippines is already on its way to recovery. With your help and with your partnership, we can continue to allow tourism to be a force for good towards the economic recovery of the ASEAN region and towards sustainable development. What we can assure you is that we are doing everything we can to improve the enabling mechanisms to ensure the improvement of the tourism industry in the Philippines. We are open, we are ready, and we invite all of you to visit and to invest in the Philippines," assured Secretary Frasco. **DOT**

DOT Regional Directors convene for Q3 alignment

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Representing the regional offices are regional directors Sharlene Zabala-Batin, NCR;Jovita A. Ganongan, CAR; Joseph Francisco R. Ortega, Region I; Fanibeth T. Domingo, Region II; Carolina D. Uy, Region III; Bevienne G. Malateo, Region IV-B; Herbie B. Aguas, Region; Cristine C. Mansinares, Region VI; Karina S. Tiopes, Region VIII ; Marlene P. Rodriguez, Region IX ; Marie Elaine S. Unchuan, Region X ; Tanya Virginia Rabat-Tan, Region XI; and Nelia R. Arina, Region XIII. Also present are OIC-Director Marites T. Castro Region IV-A; and OIC-Director Armin H. Hautea, Region XII.

TRCRG Undersecretary Shahlimar Hofer Tamano, who is also the concurrent Regional Director of DOT- Region 7 (Central Visayas), stressed the importance of an alignment between the various units of the Department. *"For the next quarter, we are looking at inviting more partners from the DOT-attached agencies, as well as partners from the public and private sector to ensure that we are aligned as we push forward and implement the programs of the administration."* Attending the meeting with Usec. Tamano are TRCRG Assistant Secretaries Rica C. Bueno and Christopher V. Morales.

Apprising the heads of the regional offices and providing a focused direction on the streamlined internal processes of the the Department are guest speakers namely Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and Chief of Staff Mae Elaine T. Bathan , Undersecretary for Administration Shereen Uy-Pamintuan, OIC-Undersecretary for Tourism Development Verna C. Buensuceso, OIC-Assistant Secretary for Tourism Development Warner Andrada, Executive Director of the Philippine Scuba Sports Diving Commission (PCSSD) Marco Ancheta, and Director of the Office of Public Affairs and Advocacy Ina Zara-Loyola.

The regional directors expressed appreciation for the alignment meeting describing the recalibrated internal policies of the Department as "engaging, conducive, and inspiring". **DOT**

DOT RD joins DIVE 7 underwater clean up

Displaying commitment to environmental viability, the Regional Directors, Undersecretaries, and Assistant Secretaries of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Executive Director of the Philippine Commission on Sports SCUBA Diving - PCSSD and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG7) held an underwater clean-up activity recently as part of the 3rd Quarter Regional Directors' Alignment Meeting ahead of the International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) on September 17.

The activity was a response to the call for participation in the annual global event organized by the Ocean Conservancy. The ICC, tagged #SeatheChange this year, has been held on the second Saturday of September every year for over 35 years now.

The number of volunteers has steadily grown, capping 17 million in 2021. Presidential Proclamation No. 470, dated September 15, 2003, institutionalizes ICC Day in the Philippines. ***DOT***

DOT muling pinarangalan ng Selyo ng Kahusayan sa Serbisyo Publiko 2022

Ang Kagawaran ng Turismo (DOT), sa pamumuno ni Kalihim Christina Garcia Frasco, ay taos pusong nagpapasalamat sa Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) sa muling paggawad nito sa institusyon ng Selyo ng Kahusayan sa Serbisyo Publiko Antas II.

Ang KWF Selyo ng Kahusayan sa Serbisyo Publiko ay timpalak at parangal para sa mga ahensiya at lokal na yunit ng pamahalaan na sumusunod sa implementasyon ng Kautusang Tagapagpaganap Bilang 335 o EO No. 335, maging ang mga nagpamalas ng kahusayan sa paggamit ng Filipino bilang wika ng serbisyong publiko. Ngayong taon, binigyang tuon ng timpalak ang paggamit ng Filipino sa social media platforms ng mga ahensiya at lokal na yunit ng pamahalaan (LGU) sa kasagsagan ng pandemya.

Ang Kagawaran ng Turismo ay lubos na sumusuporta at nakikiisa sa layunin ng KWF na palawigin at pagtibayin ang paggamit ng wikang Filipino sa paglilingkod sa bayan.

Kabilang sa mga pamantayan ng paggawad ng Antas II ay kung ang ahensiya at LGU ay naisakatuparan ang mga nakasaad sa unang antas (nakapagdaos na ng Seminar sa Korespondensiya Opisyal (SKO) ng KWF; may nabuong Lupon sa Wikang Filipino (LWF); nása Filipino ang ulo ng liham/sulat o letterhead; naisalin sa Filipino o nása Filipino ang misyon at bisyon ng inyong institusyon; nása Filipino ang ilang proseso at karatula na gagabay sa mga kliyente, online man o limbag; may mga pormularyo para sa mga kliyente na nakasulat sa Filipino; may mga korespondensiya, katulad ng liham, memorandum, at iba pa na nása Filipino; ginagamit ang Filipino sa mga social media account ng institusyon; nása Filipino ang mga pabatid, poster, brochure, at mga katulad na materyales, online man o limbag); pinalawig ang pagsasagawa ng SKO sa kanilang ahensiya; ginagamit ang ulo ng liham/sulat o letterhead sa kanilang tanggapan; nakapaskil ang Filipinong Misyon at Bisyon sa lahat ng mandatory post, at may nabuong planong aksiyon.

Ginanap noong 31 Agosto 2022 sa Diamond Hotel, Maynila, ang ilan pang ahensya na nakatanggap ng nasabing parangal ay ang Tanggapang Pampanguluhan sa Operasyong Pangkomunikasyon (PCOO), Kagawaran ng Paggawa at Empleo-Kawanihan ng mga Manggagawang may Tanging Pangangailangan (DOLE-BWSC), Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas na Yaman (DENR), Kagawaran ng Interyor at Pamahalaang Lokal (DILG), at ang Kagawaran ng Kagalingan at Pagpapaunlad Panlipunan (DSWD).

Matatandaan na ginawaran ng KWF ang DOT ng parehong parangal sa ikalawang antas mula 2021 hanggang 2022. ***DOT***

PBBM pronouncements at UN meet an excellent representation of PHL - Secretary Frasco

NEW YORK, USA - The Department of Tourism (DOT) on September 21 expressed its support to the pronouncements made by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), committing to utilize these as a guide in steering the country's tourism industry towards recovery.

"President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. 's address at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly was an excellent representation of the Philippines' geopolitical importance, historic relevance, and proactive and unifying perspective in terms of resolving the challenges of our time," said Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco.

Delivering his speech at the General Debate, President Marcos Jr. emphasized on the UN's instrumental role in addressing issues of international concern, identifying four challenges to the continued survival of the global community to be the following: climate change; rapidly transforming human life and experience stemming from the development of advanced technologies; widening geopolitical polarities and sharpening strategic competitions; and inequalities and inequities within and among countries.

As he extended the Philippines' commitment and cooperation with the UN member-states in meeting the identified challenges with solutions, the President offered the country's views on solidarity, sustainability, and science as tools that were identified to be at the UN's disposal.

According to Secretary Frasco, "We in the Department of Tourism are especially grateful that the President emphasized his administration's support for building a robust and creative economy fueled by 'no greater renewable resource than the creativity and innovation of our young,' understanding 'the value of harnessing our people's talents.'"

It can be recalled that the Tourism Secretary announced that the DOT will incorporate the "Filipino Brand" in the promotion and further development of the country's tourism portfolio.

"The Filipino people are the Philippines' most important treasure endowed with a rich and unique identity and endless talent, making the Filipino brand a formidable force around the world," added the Tourism Secretary. **DOT**

Tourism Chief tackles plans to revive industry, entices foreign investors in New York briefing

NEW YORK - Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco laid down the holistic and comprehensive plan, objectives, as well as the strategies of the Department of Tourism (DOT) to revitalize the tourism sector that has been greatly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the Philippine Economic Briefing (PEB) in New York, United States of America on September 7, Frasco joined the economic team of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. where she projected the readiness of the Philippines as a tourism destination, and the critical role that the industry plays in spurring economic opportunities across the country.

"The President has clearly identified tourism as a major tool for the economic resurgence of the Philippines, stating that it can be the economic driver upon which we herald the Filipino Brand and at the same time create economic opportunity and livelihood all over the country," Secretary Frasco said in her opening statement.

Belonging to the panel discussion on Philippines' Infrastructure Agenda and Investment Opportunities, Secretary Frasco recapitulated the Department's 7-point agenda and the 3 strategies of connectivity, convenience and E(q)uality as part of the DOT's strategy for tourism development.

The Tourism Chief bared the agency's plans to enhance the visitor experience through various programs and initiatives such as the slated ground-breaking of 10 tourist service areas in the country allocating 3 in Luzon, 5 in Visayas, and 2 in Mindanao.

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Tourism Chief tackles plans to revive industry, entices foreign investors in New York briefing

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"We plan to address the most basic aspect of travel across the Philippines: clean restrooms. I'm very pleased to inform you that in the first week of October, under the directive of the President, we are breaking ground on no less than 10 tourist rest areas across the Philippines. Three in Luzon, five in Visayas, and two in Mindanao. These tourist rest areas will have clean and decent restrooms for our tourists, a lounge for them to rest in, a complete information on tourist destinations, as well as pasalubong centers for them to be able to purchase local products and delicacies," Secretary Frasco said.

Frasco likewise announced the prioritization of tourists' safety and security through a partnership with the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG); establishment of wifi in tourism destinations through a partnership with the Department of Communications, Information and Technology (DICT); an improved digital platform that will provide information to tourists, and even the establishment of a tourist assistance call center.

The Forum was made specially interesting with the President of the Philippines giving the keynote address. President Marcos gave special mention to the tourism industry as one of the prime movers of the Philippine economy.

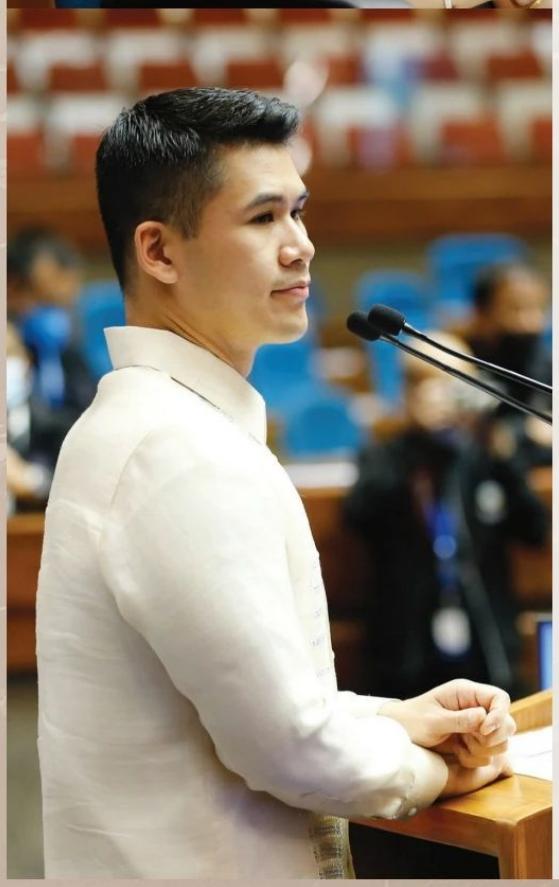
"We will also reinvigorate the tourism sector by investing in travel infrastructure and the promotion of the Filipino brand. With the Department of Tourism leading our efforts to revitalize both domestic and foreign tourism, we will ensure the safe reopening of tourist destinations and develop the Philippines' yet to be discovered attractions," remarked the President during his speech.

The PEB forum was organized to entice businesses from the United States and other countries to invest in the Philippines, a first of its kind done by a country's economic team in North America.

During the forum held at the final leg of the President's visits to the United States and United Nations, the Philippine Team highlighted the current economic status and accomplishments of the country.

The country's economic managers strategically illustrated the aspirations and plans of the current administration in its aim to bring the Philippines to an upper middle income status economy by 2024, earlier than the administration's end of term in 2028.

Together with the Tourism Chief at the economic briefing were Department of Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Felipe Medalla, National Economic and Development Authority Director General Arsenio Balisacan, Department of Budget and Management Secretary Amenah Pangandaman, Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Alfredo Pascual, Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Manuel Bonoan, Department of Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista, Department of Information and Communications Technology Secretary Ivan John Uy, Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Manuel Romualdez, Ayala Corporation Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, and Aboitiz Equity Ventures President and CEO Sabin Aboitiz. ***DOT***



DOT receives HOR nod for P3.573 B budget for 2023

BATASAN PAMBANSA, Quezon City – After swift proceedings on September 26 lasting less than two hours, the Department of Tourism (DOT) gets the nod of the lower chamber for its proposed budget for the fiscal year 2023.

"On behalf of the Department of Tourism, I express my profound gratitude to the esteemed members of the House of Representatives for their invaluable support as tacitly manifested in today's plenary deliberations which echoed resounding support from the majority to the minority for an increased Tourism budget," enthused Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco.

"We especially appreciate the zeal and assiduity to which our tourism champion, Honorable Faustino "Inno" Dy, V from the 6th District of Isabela defended the Department's budget for the fiscal year 2023," added Frasco.

In his opening remarks, Representative Dy underscored the potential of the tourism industry in spurring economic activities further noting its significant 12.8 percent contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product in 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic when it reached an all-time high of 8.3 million foreign arrivals.

"As we continue to open our borders for tourism, it is highly necessary to protect the beauty and bounty of our tourist destinations, provide an impressive overall tourism experience and ensure the health and safety of our tourists, tourism workers and the entire Filipino people. We also hope to develop and promote other key tourist destinations and market the country globally through various branding, promotional and marketing strategies. The country's tourism portfolio is at par with our ASEAN competitors; however, to further promote our tourist destinations, there is a need to further improve gateway access and other infrastructure for ease and convenience of travel," explained Representative Dy.

"The DOT envisions the tourism industry as a pillar for economic recovery. The industry is an important tool for the country's development. The attainment of the DOT's goals is, therefore, undoubtedly our nation's victory," Representative Dy added. ***(continue on page 17)***

DOT receives HOR nod for P3.573 B budget for 2023

(continued from page 16)

The DOT and its attached agencies and corporations have a total recommended budget amounting to P3.573 B which is 27.87% higher than this year's appropriations.

However, this amount is only a .068 percent share of the government's proposed 2023 National Expenditure Program (NEP) vis-a-vis the tourism industry's Php 2.5 Trillion contribution to the country's GDP. In a prior hearing, Tourism Secretary Frasco disclosed that the agency originally requested Php 12 billion from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to facilitate the successful implementation of the various programs aimed at the industry's revival.

During the interpellation, Deputy Speaker Duke Frasco underscored the important role of the tourism industry in the country's economic recovery post-pandemic emphasized, he said, "by no less than President Ferdiand Marcos, Jr." citing the industry as one of his administration's priority agenda. Deputy Speaker Frasco pushed for an increase in the Department's budget, a sentiment echoed by the Minority as manifested by Minority Leader Representative Marcelino C. Libanan of 4Ps Partylist.

"DOT needs to be equipped with the means and the tools to aid in our economic recovery to have enough fiscal space within its department to be competitive in the tourism market against our neighbors in the ASEAN and globally, to be nimble and resilient against future pandemics, epidemics, and calamities such as earthquakes and super typhoons that might befall our nation, and to be inclusive across all tourism markets and sectors not only focused on international tourist arrivals but in the massive potential of domestic tourism," said Deputy Speaker Frasco.

Meanwhile, also committing to support an increase in the DOT's budget is Gabriela Partylist representative Arlene Brosas who enquired about the Department's programs towards ensuring the safety of women. The Department through its sponsor Representative Dy, gave its commitment to uphold the rights and protection of women through its flagship program, TourISM WoRCS Program or the Tourism Integrates, Support and Minds Women's Respect and Child Safety.

Other interpellation included Assistant Minority Leader Gabriel Bordado of the 3rd District of Camarines Sur, Representatives Arlene Castro of ACT Teacher Partylist, and Mujiv Hataman of the lone district of Basilan who sought clarifications on various tourism concerns pertaining to the revenue of the Duty Free Philippines Corporation (DFPC) – an attached agency of the DOT, the filling of DOT's plantilla position vacancies, and the manner on which Tourism Road Infrastructure Projects (TRIPS) is handled by the Department, respectively.

"We are delighted that all of the Interpellators supported the increase in the budget appropriation of the Department, having seen the importance of DOT as a major component in the country's move towards economic recovery that has been devastated by the COVID Pandemic. The final approval of the Department's budget will facilitate a more vibrant and active tourism development thrust not only for the Department but for the whole tourism industry," enthused Secretary Frasco. **DOT**

PBBM opens new CRK passenger terminal building

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on September 28 stressed that the world-class Clark International Airport (CRK) heralds the readiness of the Philippines as a tourism destination, and presents the enticing investment opportunities in the country.

"We are willing to change in terms of documentation, procedure, even structure, and legislation to encourage you to come to the Philippines. The simple message that underlay in all that we did, is that the Philippines is here, we are a good place to invest. We are probably the most vibrant economy that is in Southeast Asia, and that we understand the needs of our potential investors. We will do everything so that the partnership becomes to the advantage of both the public sector, the private sector and the people," said President Marcos, Jr. during the Grand Opening of the New Passenger Terminal Building of the CRK.

"This facility is essentially a very strong signal that yes, indeed, we are open for business," the President added.

Aside from serving as a building block to the government's hopes for the country to become a "logistics center of Asia", President Marcos, Jr. also noted the benefits that the CRK New Terminal Building will bring to the country's tourism as "it connects the region to the world".

"You will see, nakangiti nga si Secretary Christina Frasco, because now, we have another facility, we have another airport kung saan [makapasok] ang mga turista, ang mga travelers. Not only the business travelers, those who are working, but also those who are visiting the Philippines," said the President.

"We need this. We need more. We have many plans for the airport in Manila, we have many plans for the [airport] surrounding Manila para naman dumami at mas madali ang pagpasok ng ating mga magiging bisita."

President Marcos, Jr. also shared his administration's commitment to strengthen regional gateways in the Philippines. ***(continue on page 19)***

PBBM opens new CRK passenger terminal building

(continued from page 18)

"The general idea that Secretary Christina, the Cabinet, and I have come to, is that habang hindi pa natin naaayos ang airport sa Maynila, habang hindi pa naitatayo at nag-ooperate ang airport sa Bulacan, hindi pa nag-operate sa Sangley–ito 'yung mga proposal ngayon, e, ay kailangan natin buksan ang mga airport sa regional. Huwag natin pinipilit lahat kailangan dumaan lahat sa Maynila," explained the President.

Joining President Marcos, Jr. in the Grand Opening of the New Passenger Terminal Building of the CRK are First lady Liza Araneta Marcos, Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco, Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Jaime Bautista, Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) Chairman and former Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Luzon International Premier Airport Development Corporation (LIPAD) Chairman Frederick Go, and LIPAD Director Francis Gotinanun.

Tourism Secretary Frasco did the honors of introducing the President at the program proper.

Also at the event to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony led by the President and the First lady were BCDA President and Chief Executive Officer (PCEO) Aileen Zosa, Changi Airports International (CAI) Director and Head of Operations Andrew Tan, Philippine Airport Ground Support Solutions, Inc. (PAGSS) Chairman Jefferson Cheng, Clark Development Corporation (CDC) Acting President and CEO Agnes Devanadera, Pampanga Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda, and other local government officials and LIPAD airport partners. **DOT**

ON THE GROUND NEWS

Regional News Updates

DOT Region 2 conducts tour operators famtour and B2B

By: DOT-2

The Department of Tourism, Cagayan Valley Region, with its mandate to promote tourism as an economic activity is conducting a Familiarization Tour with Business to Business Meeting for Tour Operators from the National Capital Region (NCR) from September 19 to 22.

This was announced by DOT Region 2 Office as it hosted 20 tour operators who will be visiting the tourist attractions of *Feel the Vibe Vizcaya!* in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya and *Quirino, Your Basket of Happiness!* in the Province of Quirino.

During the first day of the program, the tour operators visited tourist attractions in the Municipality of Ramon including the famous Magat Dam and Hydro Electric Power Plant and Balai Segundo Museum owned by the Butuyan Family.

The Business to Business Meeting was held in Santiago City and was attended by some 15 sellers of properties and services like hotels, resorts and tour operators from Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.

Dinner for the buyers and sellers was hosted by

the City of Santiago through Mayor Sheena P. Tan and entertainment was provided by the famous Balamban Dance Troupe.

DOT Region 2 lauded the support extended by the officers and members of the Region 2 Travel Agency and Tour Operators Association (R2TATOA) and the Cagayan Valley Region Tourism Council (CVRTC) who extended their support in ensuring that the DOT-funded project will be implemented seamlessly.

The local government units of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan and the Province of Nueva Vizcaya also sent their tourism officers to support the B2B Meeting and reception dinner.

The Familiarization Tour and B2B Project is being implemented by DOT Region 2 in celebration of the National Tourism Week which is being observed from September 21-27 this year. **DOT**

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

CIVIL SERVICE ANNIVERSARY | WORLD TOURISM DAY | FAMILY WEEK

Mental & Health Talk: Monkeypox

Zumba

Mental & Health Talk: Smoking & Vape

Mental & Health Talk: Anxiety Management

Free Eye Check-up

HMO Booths

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

CIVIL SERVICE ANNIVERSARY | WORLD TOURISM DAY | FAMILY WEEK

Beauty and Wellness Booths

Travel Booths

One Stop Shop

Fun Games

Art Exhibit

Thanksgiving Mass

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

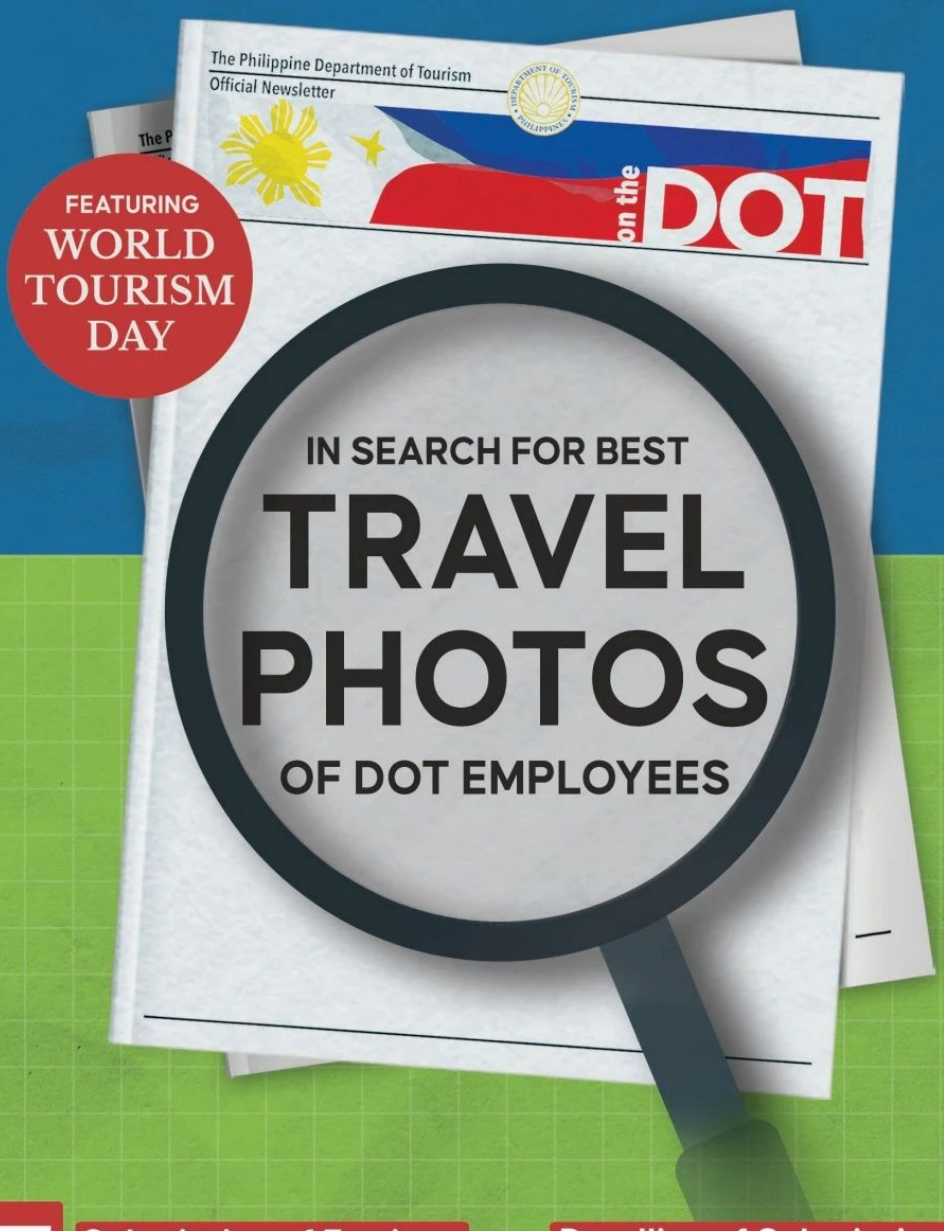
TO OUR OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

1 Lorna Buscano
1 Jeceryn Jasmin Taligatos
1 Joyce Tiffany Amada
1 Jaime Victor Bayhonan
2 Ma. Ednelliza Balagtas
2 Aisha Ibni
2 Teresita Romanes
2 Catherine Rosal
3 Dominic Brian Rosales
3 Luz Navarro
3 Gerard Panga
4 Helena Marie Billones
4 Jaena Salabit
4 Janika Blesilda Velasco
5 Arlene Vidaya
5 Eleanor Palima
5 Alfredo Simbol
6 Ronald Bautista
6 Claudette Olive Maximo
6 Aylene Marie Sarmiento
7 Arel Kenric Jose
7 Michael Angelo Buenaventura
7 Christine Mae Recomite
7 Jerlie Ganiga
7 Kelly Gusi
8 Patricio Sarile Jr.
8 Bon Derryl Pugal
9 Daniel Cruz
9 Lemuel Palejaro
10 Arman Joseph Rafael
10 Naregin Flores
11 Psalmster John Ligan
11 Marilyn Recarro
11 Lyka Angelika Lucas
12 Jerica Capiral
12 Jose Flores
12 Dyna Frances Divina
12 Jose Flores Jr.
13 Jethro Carlo Paraiso
13 Anna Isabelle Malay
13 Glenn Avila
14 Samuel Del Espiritu
14 Nelia Arina
15 Kier Patrick Sison
15 Nenita Saludo
16 Mikee Denise Pascual
16 Christian Ray Lingat
17 Victoria Margarita Paje
18 Jocel Bañas
18 Alain Quesea
18 John Trexy Noveros
18 Michelle Ferrater
18 John Mico Logronio
19 Jo Von Allen Saberola
19 Ma. Desiree Duzon
19 Eugene Dacanay
19 Saul Khe
19 Mary Antoinette Diaz
19 Christopher Morales
19 Charlynne Buangan
19 Dinnah Mee Lunjas-Cruz
19 Donita Rose Andres
19 Kim Benedict Vito
20 Charmaine Chavit
20 Adreanne Faye Matta
21 Robin Pascual
21 Paul Jasper Parungao
21 Reynaldo Gabriel Jr.
22 Patrick De Leon
23 Dianalyn Reyes
23 Verna Glass
23 Marian Obispo
23 Faeroe Jeanne Fontanilla
23 Mikaela Ortiz
24 Kylee Doreene Plaza
24 Nicole Angela Regina Benbinuto
25 Florencio Capati Jr.
26 Stephen Calle Batacan
26 Mary Dan Official
27 Renzo Dela Cruz
27 Marites Ballester
27 Filbert Ian Tan
28 Maristela Cruz
28 Antonio Imperial
29 Caesar Prudencio Regis
29 Gelena Asis-Dimpas
29 Mylene Tauli
29 Cherry Martel Regala
30 Silvano Obon
30 Christine Joyce Soriano
31 Purificacion Molintas
31 Charmaine Dalisay-Jimenez

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

October 2022

on the DOT



FEATURING
WORLD TOURISM DAY

IN SEARCH FOR BEST TRAVEL PHOTOS OF DOT EMPLOYEES

Submission of Entries:
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- **Link:** bit.ly/octonthedot

and win exciting prizes!

Deadline of Submission:
24 October 2022

For Inquires:
Charles Usi | ccusi@tourism.gov.ph